

CASTLE WARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORTS

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1942.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- of the -

CASTLE WARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHUMBERLAND

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit to you my Forty-first Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1942.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	82,827
Population	...	...	...	...	13,676
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,610
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£97,096
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£378

The two main occupations in the area are coal mining and agriculture, the coal mining being chiefly in the Eastern portion of the district.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

Number of births registered during the year was 193 compared with 172 in 1941.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	85	99
Illegitimate	6	3
Total:	91	102

Birth Rate:- 15.2 per 1000 per annum compared with 12.7 per 1000 per annum in 1941.

Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1942 was 15.8 per 1000 per annum.

Still Births.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-
Total:	3	4

Total rate per 1000 (Live and Still) 15.9 per 1000 per annum compared with 13.0 per 1000 per annum in 1941.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 121, compared with 129 in 1941.

Death Rate:- 10.1 per 1000 per annum compared with 9.0 per 1000 per annum in 1941.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1942 was 11.6 per 1000 per annum.

The three main causes of deaths were:

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	28
Cancer	...	...	...	...	15
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	15
				Total:	58

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths under this heading.

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths under one year was 6 compared with 7 in 1941.

		M.	F.
Legitimate	...	3	3
Illegitimate	...	-	-
Total:		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per 1000 Live Births was 30.0, compared with 40.6 in 1941.

Deaths from Cancer.

During the year there have been 15 deaths from this cause, compared with 18 deaths in 1941.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (A) Medical. - Part time Medical Officer of Health.
(B) Others. - Sanitary Inspector with Assistant, both having certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Also act as Inspectors of Dairies and Cowsheds, Meat Inspector, and the carrying out of the Housing Scheme under the Housing Acts.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The examination and analysis of Clinical Material (Sputum, Swabs, etc.), milk and water is under the control of the County Council.

3. Nursing in the Home.

(A) General. - Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualification and supplied by the County Nursing Association, under the control of the County Council, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instances of small fees. In some cases grants are made by the Ministry of Health.

(B) Infectious Diseases. - Relief nurses from the County Nursing Association when available.

4. Hospitals.

(A) Infectious Disease. - West Northumberland Joint Infectious Hospital situated at Lemington: Takes in cases from Newburn, Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Hexham Urban Districts, and from Hexham and Castle Ward Rural Districts. 68 beds.

(B) Smallpox. - Arrangements have now been made with the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board to remove and treat cases occurring in this area.

(C) Tuberculosis. - Provision made by the County Council, also the Children's Sanatorium at Hexham Hydro (temporarily).

(D) General Medical and Surgical. - Treated in the various hospitals in Newcastle upon Tyne.

(E) Maternity. - Where necessary, in Princess Mary Maternity Hospital.

5. Ambulance Facilities.

(A) Infectious Cases. - Removed by respective Hospital Authorities.
(B) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. - At the present time there are no facilities provided by your Council, the cases being removed by ambulances provided by Collieries, Civil Defence, or privately.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	13	8	Nil
Ø Enteric Fever	2)	Treated in)) Institution)	Nil
Diphtheria	23	20	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	Nil
Anterior Polio-Myolitis ...	1	Nil	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	15	Nil	2
Measles	228	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	21	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	308	29	7

Ø These cases are Institutional.

The total number of cases notified in 1941 was 266.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirteen cases notified compared with eight in 1941.

Diphtheria.

Twenty-three cases notified during the year compared with nineteen in 1941. Of these cases sixteen had not been immunised, but seven of the cases ranged from the ages of 17 to 30 years which had probably not been immunised. Five of the cases were of children below school age. Two of the children had been immunised, one 6 years prior to taking the disease. These two were of a mild character.

Of the four deaths which occurred, the ages were 5 and under, and not one had been immunised.

Number of Children Immunised during the year:-

Under 5	176
Over 5 to 15 ...	<u>275</u>
	<u>451</u>

These do not include those done under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme under the Northumberland County Council.

Tuberculosis.

During the year four cases have been notified compared with nine in 1941.

Two of these cases were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

School Closure.

No schools have been closed during the year on account of Infectious Disease or other cause.

Bacteriological Examinations.

During the year the following Bacteriological Examinations have been made:-

Bacteriological Examinations:

Specimen	Positive	Negative	TOTAL
Sputa for B. Tuberculosis	-	33	33
Swabs for Diphtheria	14	245	259
Blood for Agglutination.....	-	3	3
Miscellaneous Specimens.....			37
Milk Samples for B. Tuberculosis	1	20	21
Milk Samples for M.B. Reduction Test: Accredited:	6	70	76
Water Samples			25

FACTORIES.

The various Factories and Workshops have been inspected during the year.

There are no underground bake-houses and no out-workers in the District.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) WILLMOT HOLMES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

JULY 9th, 1943.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Fourth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department. This report is made in conformity with the Ministry of Health's wishes to establish continuity of annual reports rather than that of a complete recital of the Sanitary conditions of the district.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

With the continuance of the National Emergency and the restricted use of man power and materials except for works of National importance the problem of getting works of repair and improvement continues to be increasingly difficult, but every effort is made to get the most necessary works of repair carried out.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There have been no extensions to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's mains during the year in the Council's area.

No solution has yet been found to the problem of improving the distribution system in the village of Kirkheaton and whilst the supply continues to function the whole scheme will require attention as soon as conditions permit.

The schemes at Whalton, Heugh, and Heddon, continue to function satisfactorily except for minor repairs and adjustments.

During the year a few samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

At Woolsington a duplicate set of works have been constructed by the Air Ministry to deal with the sewage from War Department Buildings.

No large works of repair or improvement have been possible during the year but all the 19 works under the Council's control have been well maintained.

SEWERAGE.

An extension of 70 yards has been made to the 6" sewer at Middle Drive, Woolsington, and four cesspools done away with.

All the sewers in the district continue to receive regular attention and are functioning satisfactorily.

SCAVENGING.

As no tenders were received for scavenging, this work was undertaken by direct labour in 5 parishes with a hired wagon. There were difficulties in getting suitable labour but a regular service was ultimately established. The Council have made application for a licence to purchase a properly constructed Refuse Wagon.

SALVAGE.

This work still continues partly in conjunction with the collection of house refuse, and in the outlying parts of the area by a special wagon. The following quantities of material were collected and disposed of:

	Tons.	cwts.	qrts.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	102.	3.	3.	0.	582.	6.	2
Scrap iron, tins, etc.	119.	12.	2.	0.	200.	15.	5
Nonferrous metals	1.	7.	0.	14.	24.	8.	6
Rags.	2.	4.	2.	0.	44.	5.	9
Bottles & Jars: 490½ doz =	2.	10.	0.	0.	18.	1.	7
Bones.	2.	14.	2.	0.	9.	10.	4
Rubber.	8.	18.	0.	0.	20.	16.	2
	239.	10.	1.	14.	£900.	3.	11

SHELTERS.

During the year 500 Indoor Table Shelters were distributed in areas approved by the shelter officer.

REPAIR OF WAR DAMAGE.

With the exception of one case the amount of War Damage has been slight and has received prompt attention by the local builders.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

During the year three cow-keepers were added to the register, making a total of 105 at December, 1942.

The shortage of labour still prevents any major structural improvements being carried out. Proposals have been submitted for the reconstruction and rebuilding of 2 cowsheds during the coming year. Another cowshed was destroyed by fire and the opportunity was taken when rebuilding to make a first class job.

The results of the milk samples taken by this Authority during the year are lower than previously, yet the figures for those taken in Newcastle are better. The reason is not clear, for one would think that, as our samples are taken at the point of production immediately after cooling, and Newcastle after they have stood on the roadside and then a road journey before reaching the depot, our results would be better; however, this is not so.

A new scheme is being introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture whereby a producer's milk on reaching the receiving depot is classified as marketable, salvage, or reject, according to its keeping qualities. Reject milk is returned to the producer and he receives no payment. This payment by result should, when the scheme is in full operation, have marked effects.

Appended are the known number of samples taken inside and outside this district from milk produced in the area. I am indebted to the County Council and Newcastle C.B. for supplying information.

Samples collected within District.

Designated:	67	of which 45 or 67% were satisfactory.
Undesignated:	76	" " 36 or 47% "

Samples collected in Newcastle.

Designated:	60	of which 42 or 70% were satisfactory.
Undesignated:	73	" " 55 or 75% "

Summary.

276 samples taken: 178 or 64.5% satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are no slaughter houses in use for slaughtering: All meat consumed in the district is sent in from the Ministry of Food Pool at Newcastle; routine inspections are made from time to time.

A considerable amount of time is taken up with matters arising out of the National Emergency and dealing with various departments requiring information and returns.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

JAMES BOLTON.